NATIONAL DISCORD AND DEMORALIZATION.

The Cause and the Remedy.

By HENRY CAREY BAIRD.

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Perhaps at no previous period in our history have there been so many misgivings amongst thoughtful and patriotic men as to the success and permanency of our institutions as at present. Discord exists throughout the land between the various interests, races, and sections, and between the people and their rulers. Then it cannot be disguised that there is a decline in public morals, and that jobbery, corruption, and robbery preside over the municipal governments of most of our cities and large towns. To-day a man pays almost or quite as much in the form of taxes for the privilege of living in his own house in one of our cities as he did twenty years ago in rent for living in a similar one which belonged to another, and the saddest feature of this sad business is that these evils grow as time proceeds upon its onward course.

Many well-meant and vigorous efforts have been made in this city to bring about a reform, but thus far they have met with but moderate success. Notwithstanding this we believe that the practical solution of this question of municipal government under republican institutions is simple, and not only simple, but that the measures necessary to solve it are such as will prove beneficent to every section of the land and to the entire people thereof.

Let the whole people be set to work and kept at work at profitable employments. Let the industries of the country once more be vitalized as those of the loyal States were at the close of the war, and kept steadily so, and the pressure upon "the public crib" will by degrees be lightened, and be finally, almost if not wholly, removed.

A republican, above and beyond all other forms of government, demands and will have intelligence and virtue among its people, with whom all power is finally lodged. Without a large measure of these it will cease to exist as such, and a despotism will take its place. Steadily maintained prosperity is the one and only foundation upon which such intelligence and virtue can permanently rest. While the universal education of the people is acknowledged to be an absolute necessity under free institutions, such education accompanied by a condition of